Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /099 W

P R 282342Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2956 INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL ALL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA (BY POUCH)

-----282359Z 015831/66

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: ENERGY: APRIL 1977 CANADIAN CRUDE OIL SUPPLY AND DEMAND

1. ON MARCH 23 NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD (NEB) RELEASED FOLLOWING ESTIMATES OF CANADIAN CRUDE OIL PRODUCIBILITY, DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR CANADIAN OIL, AND LICENSED EXPORTS FOR ZQ0:;1777:

----- THOUSANDS OF BARRELS PER DAY

----- MARCH APRIL

PRODUCIBILITY

LIGHT CRUDE OIL 1,657 1,655 HEAVY CRUDE OIL 210 212

DOMESTIC DEMAND

LIGHT CRUDE OIL 1,141 1,034 HEAVY CRUDE OIL 71 69

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LICENSED EXPORTS

LIGHT CRUDE OIL 180 180 HEAVY CRUDE OIL 118 101

2. ANNOUNCEMENT IS FIRST OF ITS KIND AND WILL BE MADE IN FUTURE ON MONTHLY BASIS. NEB PREVIOUSLY RELEASED THIS INFORMATION TO INTERESTED NEWSMEN AND ORGANIZATIONS

ON REQUEST ONLY. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT DATA ON ROUTINE BASIS.

- 3. COMMENT. ABOVE FIGURES SHOW THAT VOLUME OF HEAVY OIL EXPORTS DECLINED 17,000 BARRELS PER DAY (B/D) FROM MARCH TO APRIL AND THAT 42,000 B/D OF HEAVY OIL PRODUCTION AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT WAS NOT REQUESTED BY U. S. REFINERIES. GOC OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS DISMAY THAT SUCH QUANTITIES OF HEAVY OIL ARE BEING "LEFT ON THE SHELF IN CANADA" WHEN THEY ARE CERTAIN THERE ARE U. S. REFINERIES WHICH WILL TAKE THIS OIL IF USG POLICY PERMITS IT. AS EVIDENCE OF THIS DEMAND THEY CITE THE MASSIVE OVER-NOMINATION OF THE SPECIAL EXPORTS OF HEAVY CRUDE AUTHORIZED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH. FOR 800,000 BARRELS AUTHORIZED IN FEBRUARY NOMINATIONS TOTALED 3.2 MILLION BARRELS AND FOR THE 900,000 BARRELS AUTHORIZED IN MARCH NOMINATIONS TOTALED 2.9 MILLION BARRELS.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: NEB ANNOUNCEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT PRESS COVERAGE (WHICH EMPHASIZED THAT REASON FOR DROP IN EXPORTS WAS LACK OF DEMAND FROM U.S. REFINERS) HIGHLIGHT PROBLEM WHICH IS APPARENTLY A MATTER OF INCREASING CONCERN TO GOC. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS SITUATION TO INFORM GOC OF ANY ACTIONS USG CONTEMPLATES TO FACILITATE ACCESS OF U.S. REFINERS TO AVAILABLE HEAVY OIL SUPPLIES. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS STATUS REPORT ON FEA CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER AND GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT WE MAY TELL GOC REGARDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKELY NEAR-TERM U.S. POLICY. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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